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Joseph M. Sauer, Esq.
Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue
North Point, 901 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

EXAMINER

BECKER, SHAWN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/904,364

Applicant(s)

MAGUIRE, MICHAEL

Examiner

Shawn M. Becker

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to communication filed 8/30/04.

Claim Objections

1. The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Misnumbered claim 45 from the amendment filed 8/30/04 has been renumbered 46 to match the original claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the software product Microsoft® Outlook® 2000, (c) 1999 (hereinafter Outlook) and U.S. Patent No. 6,630,944 to Kakuta et al. (hereinafter Kakuta).

Referring to claims 1 and 24, Outlook discloses a method and wireless device (i.e. laptop computer) with a viewing screen, processor, and a memory device that stores electronic messages that have been transmitted or received by the wireless device. See the stored messages in screenshot 2 (i.e. Message 1, Message 2, and RE: Message 1).

Outlook includes a message software interface module executed by the processor that (a) displays a current electronic message on the viewing screen (i.e. Message 1), and in response to the current message (b) automatically filters each of the electronic messages stored in the memory device to identify one or more select messages meeting a pre-set criteria (see the option in the drop-down menu to find all messages from the sender in screenshot 2 and screenshot 3 which shows the dialog box that follows with the result of the find/filter, which is a automated process), and (c) displays the one or more select messages on the viewing screen along with the current message. Part of each message is shown in screenshot 3, and in screenshot 4, Outlook shows an option File drop-down menu to open each selected message, which displays each selected message along with the already open current message.

Outlook does not explicitly teach displaying the one or more selected messages and the current electronic message as a single thread on the viewing screen. However, Kakuta teaches a method of sending textual messages between computer device users, which is similar to Outlook and discloses displaying one or more messages along with a current message as a single thread on a viewing screen (i.e. Fig. 7; 307-310 and col. 6, lines 14-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display the one or more selected messages and the current message of Outlook as a single message thread to provide the communication context regarding a specific thread/conversation within a single window as shown in Kakuta.

Referring to claims 8, 10, 31, and 33, Outlook teaches a wireless device (i.e. laptop) and method with a viewing screen, processor, and a memory device that stores electronic messages

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that have been transmitted or received by the wireless device. See the stored messages in screenshot 2 (i.e. Message 1, Message 2, and RE: Message 1).

Outlook includes a message software interface module executed by the processor that (a) displays a current electronic message on the viewing screen (i.e. Message 1), (b) automatically locates/finds one more select messages by filtering each of the electronic messages stored in the memory device to identify stored electronic messages within a pre-set proximity range (i.e. based on time received, by selecting a message and clicking the received arrow in screenshot 2) in relation to the current electronic message, and (c) automatically displays the one or more select messages on the viewing screen along with the current message. Part of each message is shown in screenshot 2, and in screenshot 4, Outlook shows an option File drop-down menu to open each selected message, which displays each selected message along with the already open current message. As another example, see screenshot 7 which shows each stored message grouped based on a time received range (i.e. within one minute) and a drop-down menu for opening each message within a range of time (i.e. that corresponds to the current open message).

Outlook teaches that the proximity range is a range of time and not a storage proximity range based on indexing data. However, Kakuta teaches consecutively numbering (with ordinal values) each message to provide a message ID (col. 6, lines 20-28), which is stored in relation to the message, just as the time received is stored in relation to the messages in Outlook. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a message ID as taught by Kakuta as a field related to message in Outlook, such that a storage proximity range (i.e. range of numbered message IDs) may be used on top of/in place of the received time range of

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Outlook as the filter for identifying stored messages in order to allow the user to find consecutive messages (both sent and received) based on the message ID/storage field.

Outlook does not explicitly teach displaying the one or more selected messages and the current electronic message as a single thread on the viewing screen. However, Kakuta teaches a method of sending textual messages between computer device users, which is similar to Outlook and discloses displaying one or more messages along with a current message as a single thread on a viewing screen (i.e. Fig. 7; 307-310 and col. 6, lines 14-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display the one or more selected messages and the current message of Outlook as a single message thread to provide the communication context regarding a specific thread/conversation within a single window as shown in Kakuta.

Referring to claims 13 and 36, Outlook teaches a wireless device (i.e. laptop) and method with a viewing screen, a processor, and a memory device that stores electronic messages that have been transmitted or received by the wireless device. See the stored messages in screenshot 2 (i.e. Message 1, Message 2, and RE: Message 1).

Outlook includes a message software interface module executed by the processor that (a) displays a current electronic message on the viewing screen (i.e. Message 1), (b) automatically locates/finds one more select messages by comparing the outside address of each electronic message stored in the memory device with the current outside address (see the pull-down menu in screenshot 2, which shows that the pre-set criteria is that the address of the sender matches the address of the sender of the current message and the "From" field in screenshot 3), and (c) automatically displays the one or more select messages on the viewing screen along with the

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current electronic message. Part of each message is shown in screenshot 3, and in screenshot 4, Outlook shows an option File drop-down menu to open each selected message, which displays each selected message along with the already open current message.

Outlook does not explicitly teach displaying the one or more selected messages and the current electronic message as a single thread on the viewing screen. However, Kakuta teaches a method of sending textual messages between computer device users, which is similar to Outlook and discloses displaying one or more messages along with a current message as a single thread on a viewing screen (i.e. Fig. 7; 307-310 and col. 6, lines 14-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display the one or more selected messages and the current message of Outlook as a single message thread to provide the communication context regarding a specific thread/conversation within a single window as shown in Kakuta.

Referring to claim 46, Outlook teaches a method for displaying a current electronic message on a wireless device (i.e. laptop) in context with one or more of a plurality of stored electronic messages. See the stored messages in screenshot 2 (i.e. Message 1, Message 2, and RE: Message 1).

Outlook sets an electronic message being accessed by a user as the current electronic message (i.e. double-clicks on a message).

Outlook determines if the current electronic message is of an incoming type or an outgoing type (i.e. sends the message to the Inbox or Sent box).

If the current message is of the incoming type, Outlook identifies a current sender address for the current electronic message (i.e. the address in the From field).

If the current message is of the outgoing type, Outlook identifies a current receiver address for the current electronic message (i.e. the address in the To field).

Outlook identifies current indexing data for the current electronic message (i.e. time received).

Outlook identifies a sender address and a receiver address for each stored electronic message (i.e. the address in the From and To field).

Outlook determines if each stored electronic message is of an incoming type or an outgoing type (i.e. sends the message to the Inbox or Sent box).

If the current electronic message is of the incoming type (i.e. within the Inbox as in screenshot 2), then Outlook automatically identifies (i.e. the identification process is automated) stored electronic messages having a matching address by comparing the current sender address with both the receiver and sender addresses of each electronic message stored in the memory device, which includes the sender address of each stored incoming message and the receiver address of each stored outgoing message. See screenshot 3, which shows the results of finding all messages from the sender. Notice how the messages listed at the bottom of screenshot 3 include both Sent and received (Inbox) messages. Also, screenshot 3 shows “From” and “Sent To” options for comparing the sender and receiver, respectively, of each message.

If the current electronic message is of the outgoing type (i.e. within the Sent box), then Outlook automatically identifies stored electronic messages having a matching address by comparing the current receiver address with both the receiver and sender address of each electronic message stored in the memory device. See screenshot 3, which provides the capability

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to input the current receiver address and search both the receiver (Sent To) and sender (From) address.

Outlook automatically identifies indexing data for each stored electronic message having a matching address (i.e. time received in screenshot 3).

Outlook teaches identifying each message related to a current message. See screenshot 8, which shows an option above the "From:" field to find all related messages. Outlook teaches a proximity range and index based on time (i.e. time received) and not a storage proximity range based on indexing data. However, Kakuta teaches consecutively numbering (with ordinal values) each message to provide a message ID (col. 6, lines 20-28), which is stored in relation to the message, just as the time received is stored in relation to the messages in Outlook. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a message ID as taught by Kakuta as a field related to message in Outlook, such that a storage proximity range (i.e. range of numbered message IDs) may be used on top of/in place of the received time range of Outlook as the filter for identifying stored messages in order to allow the user to find consecutive messages (both sent and received) based on the message ID/storage field.

Outlook teaches automatically appending each stored electronic message to a related message list if the stored electronic message has a matching address and has indexing data that falls within a pre-set range (see the list of messages at the bottom of screenshots 3 and 6). Kakuta teaches that the range may be a storage proximity range, *supra*.

Outlook displays the current electronic message on a viewing screen along with each electronic message appended to the related message list. Part of each message is shown in screenshot 3, and in screenshot 4, Outlook shows an option File drop-down menu to open each

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selected message, which displays each selected message along with the already open current message.

Outlook does not explicitly teach displaying the one or more selected messages and the current electronic message as a single thread on the viewing screen. However, Kakuta teaches a method of sending textual messages between computer device users, which is similar to Outlook and discloses displaying one or more messages along with a current message as a single thread on a viewing screen (i.e. Fig. 7; 307-310 and col. 6, lines 14-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display the one or more selected messages and the current message of Outlook as a single message thread to provide the communication context regarding a specific thread/conversation within a single window as shown in Kakuta.

Referring to claims 2 and 25, the pre-set criteria for the one or more select messages is configurable by a user of Outlook (on the wireless device, i.e. laptop). See screenshot 3, which shows several user configurable options filtering the messages, such as who the message is from, whom it is to, and within what time period it was received.

Referring to claims 3 and 26, the pre-set criteria of Outlook is an address matching condition between an outside address of the one or more select messages and an outside address of the current electronic message. See the pull-down menu in screenshot 2, which shows that the pre-set criteria is that the address of the sender matches the address of the sender of the current message.

Referring to claims 4 and 27, the pre-set criteria of Outlook is a time-frame selected by a user of the wireless device during which the one or more select messages were transmitted or

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received by the wireless device. See screenshot 6, which shows that the Advanced Find dialog box may filter the messages based on a time frame (selected from the displayed drop-down menu).

Referring to claims 5 and 28, Outlook shows that the pre-set criteria may be a number of different criterion (i.e. sender, receiver, messages that contain a keyword, or messages received within a range of time) stored and associated with each message and that the range of each criterion may be selected by a user. See screenshot 3. However, Outlook does not explicitly teach that the pre-set criteria is a storage proximity range for the one or more select messages in relation to the current electronic message. Kakuta teaches consecutively numbering each message to provide a message ID (col. 6, lines 20-28), which is stored in relation to the message, just as the time received, sender, recipient, etc. are stored in relation to the messages in Outlook. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a message ID as taught by Kakuta as a field related to message in Outlook, such that a storage proximity range (i.e. range of numbered message IDs) is a pre-set criteria in Outlook, just as a range of time received may be a pre-set criteria, in order to allow the user to find consecutive messages (both sent and received) based on the message ID/storage field.

Referring to claims 6 and 29, the pre-set criteria of Outlook includes (a) an outside address of the current electronic message (i.e. see the pull-down menu in screenshot 2, which shows that the pre-set criteria includes that the address of the sender matches the address of the sender of the current message) and (b) a time-frame selected by a user of the wireless device during which the one or more select messages were transmitted or received by the wireless

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device. See screenshot 6, which shows that the Advanced Find dialog box may filter the messages based on a time frame (selected from the displayed drop-down menu).

Referring to claims 7 and 30, Outlook shows that the pre-set criteria may be a number of different combinable criterion (i.e. sender, receiver, messages that contain a keyword, or messages received within a range of time) stored and associated with each message and that the range of each criterion may be selected by a user. See screenshot 3. This includes an outside address for the one or more select messages that matches an outside address of the current electronic message. See the pull-down menu in screenshot 2, which shows that the pre-set criteria is that the address of the sender matches the address of the sender of the current message. Also, see the "From" button in screenshot 3.

However, Outlook does not explicitly teach that the pre-set criteria is a storage proximity range for the one or more select messages in relation to the current electronic message. Kakuta teaches consecutively numbering each message to provide a message ID (col. 6, lines 20-28), which is stored in relation to the message, just as the time received, sender, recipient, etc. are stored in relation to the messages in Outlook. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a message ID as taught by Kakuta as a field related to message in Outlook, such that a storage proximity range (i.e. range of numbered message IDs) is a pre-set criteria in Outlook, just as a range of time received may be a pre-set criteria, in order to allow the user to find consecutive messages (both sent and received) based on the message ID/storage field.

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Referring to claims 9 and 32, screenshots 3 and 6 of Outlook show input boxes where a user may configure filter criteria. Kakuta teaches that the proximity range may be a filter criterion, *supra*.

Referring to claim 34, the ordinal values of Outlook and Kakuta are assigned when electronic messages are stored, and if the current electronic message has not been stored, then it is assigned a next available ordinal value (consecutive number). See Kakuta at col. 6, lines 20-28.

Referring to claims 11-12 and 35, Outlook teaches indexing data comprising a time stamp that indicates the date and time the stored electronic messages were transmitted or received by the wireless device. See the right side of screenshot 2 under "Received".

Referring to claim 37, the current outside address in Outlook is displayed on the viewing screen. See the "From" field in screenshot 2.

Referring to claims 14 and 38, each electronic message stored in the memory device of Outlook includes a sender address (To:) and a receiver address (From:), one of which is the outside address, and the current electronic message includes a current sender address and a current receiver address, one of which is the current outside address (i.e. From).

Referring to claims 15-16 and 39-40, the message software interface module of Outlook determines whether the current electronic message is of an incoming type (i.e. placed in the Inbox) or an outgoing type (i.e. placed in the Sent box) and whether each stored electronic message is of an incoming type (Inbox) or an outgoing type (Sent box).

If the current electronic message is of the incoming type (i.e. within the Inbox as in screenshot 2), then the message software module interface module locates the one or more select

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electronic messages by comparing the current sender address with both the receiver and sender addresses of each electronic message stored in the memory device. See screenshot 3, which shows the results of finding all messages from the sender. Notice how the messages listed at the bottom of screenshot 3 include both Sent and received (Inbox) messages. Also, screenshot 3 shows “From” and “Sent To” options for comparing the sender and receiver, respectively, of each message.

If the current electronic message is of the outgoing type (i.e. within the Sent box), then the software interface module locates the one or more select messages by comparing the current receiver address with both the receiver and sender address of each electronic message stored in the memory device. See screenshot 3, which provides the capability to input the current receiver address and search both the receiver (Sent To) and sender (From) address.

Referring to claim 41, the method of Outlook appends to a related message list (i.e. bottom of screenshot 3) each of the stored electronic messages in which the outside address matches the current outside address.

Referring to claims 17, 19, 42, and 44, Outlook teaches a proximity range and index based on time (i.e. time received) and not a storage proximity range based on indexing data. However, Kakuta teaches consecutively numbering (with ordinal values) each message to provide a message ID (col. 6, lines 20-28), which is stored in relation to the message, just as the time received is stored in relation to the messages in Outlook. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a message ID as taught by Kakuta as a field related to message in Outlook, such that a storage proximity range (i.e. range of numbered

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message IDs) may be used on top of/in place of the received time range of Outlook as the filter for identifying stored messages in order to allow the user to find consecutive messages (both sent and received) based on the message ID/storage field.

Referring to claims 18 and 43, screenshots 3 and 6 of Outlook show input boxes where a user may configure filter criteria. Kakuta teaches that the proximity range may be a filter criterion, *supra*.

Referring to claims 20-21 and 45, Outlook teaches indexing data comprising a time stamp that indicates the date and time the stored electronic messages were transmitted or received by the wireless device. See the right side of screenshot 2 under "Received".

Referring to claim 22, the message software interface module of Outlook further limits the one or more select electronic messages by comparing one or more keywords selected by a user of the wireless device with each electronic message stored in the memory. See screenshot 3, which shows an option for "Search for the word(s)".

Referring to claim 23, the message software interface of Outlook locates the one or more select electronic messages by instead comparing one or more keywords selected by a user with each electronic message stored in the memory device. See screenshot 3, which shows an option for "Search for the word(s)". The Advanced Find dialog box may also be accessed through the Tools menu bar without already filtering the messages.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 8, 13, 24, 31, 36, and 46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Applicant argues the newly presented limitations that are directed to automatically filtering stored messages and displaying the messages in a single thread. While the filtering process of Outlook may be manually initiated, the actual filtering is an automatic computer process; therefore, Outlook teaches automatically filtering each stored message. In addition, Outlook provides for Filter rules that automatically place messages into storage locations (i.e. folders).

Kakuta teaches displaying messages in a single thread, as described above. The combination of Outlook and Kakuta teaches automatically filtering messages and displaying certain messages that relate to a thread as a single thread.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach displaying messages pertaining to a thread as a single thread on the display.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

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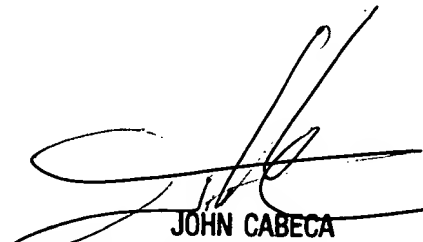
CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawn M. Becker whose telephone number is (571) 272-4046. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smb



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100